

INTER TRIBAL COUNCIL of ARIZONA

RESOLUTION 0413

Support for Medicaid Expansion in the State of Arizona – Positive Impact on Tribes and the Indian Health Care System

MEMBER TRIBES

AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY
COCOPAH TRIBE
COLORADO RIVER INDIAN TRIBES
FORT McDOWELL YAVAPAI NATION
FORT MOJAVE TRIBE
GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY
HAVASUPAI TRIBE
HOPI TRIBE
HUALAPAI TRIBE
KAIBAB-PAIUTE TRIBE
PASCUA YAQUI TRIBE
PUEBLO OF ZUNI
QUECHAN TRIBE
SALT RIVER PIMA-MARICOPA
INDIAN COMMUNITY
SAN CARLOS APACHE TRIBE
TOHONO O'ODHAM NATION
TONTON APACHE TRIBE
WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE
YAVAPAI APACHE NATION
YAVAPAI PRESCOTT INDIAN TRIBE

WHEREAS, the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona (ITCA), an organization of twenty tribal governments in Arizona, provides a forum for tribal governments to advocate for national, regional and specific tribal concerns and to join in united action to address those concerns; and

WHEREAS, member Tribes of the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona (ITCA) have the authority to act to further their collective interests as sovereign tribal governments. ITCA supports and represents the member Tribes on matters directly affecting them upon their request; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling upholding the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) on June 28, 2012, indicated that States have the option, as opposed to a requirement, to expand Medicaid eligibility up to 133% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) in January 2014; and

WHEREAS, if Arizona covers adults from 100% to 133% FPL, the federal government will provide an enhanced matching rate that will increase to 90% in 2020 for restoration of coverage to childless adults who would otherwise be eligible under Proposition 204; and

WHEREAS, 16,000 Proposition 204 eligible American Indian childless adults have lost AHCCCS coverage due to the enrollment freeze implemented in July 2011 making restoration a top priority of the Tribes; and

WHEREAS, Governor Jan Brewer announced her support for Medicaid Restoration during the State of the State address to the Arizona State Legislature on January 14, 2013 and she is seeking support to move forward on the program that if adopted would begin on January 1, 2014; and

WHEREAS, Tribal leaders met with Governor Brewer on January 31, 2013 to discuss the provisions of the Affordable Care Act relating to Medicaid and Health Insurance Exchange opportunities and were briefed on the Governor's restoration proposal; and

WHEREAS, Tribal leaders conveyed to the Governor the opportunity that Medicaid Restoration and the new coverage affords Arizona will be a major advancement for American Indians who experience greater levels of health disparities and significant difficulty accessing health care services than other groups; and

WHEREAS, Tribal leaders conveyed to the Governor that covering the uninsured through Medicaid Restoration and new coverage will impact 49,288 American Indians with incomes up to 133% FPL, which is critical to addressing healthcare disparities; and

WHEREAS, the consultative relationship between Tribal governments and AHCCCS insures that policy is formulated to address Indian health system policies and requirements which includes that the electronic billing and payment process is predicated on 100% Federal *pass through* dollars, in which no state match is required, plus outreach and education of American Indian patients on eligibility and benefits is conducted across all IHS and Tribal health facilities so that enrollment assistance can be accomplished as the infrastructure is already in place; and


WHEREAS, AHCCCS has projected that by 2015, Arizona is expected to receive a total of \$1.6 billion in new federal funds that will substantially alleviate pressures on the state budget; and

WHEREAS, if the state relies on the federal Health Insurance Marketplace as a fallback for expanding coverage, few Indian health providers have contracts with private health insurance companies, and while this may be remedied in the future as a result of insurance reform, it will require a significant level of work to have these contracts in place by October 1, 2013 when the Marketplace starts enrolling individuals and providing insurance options for small businesses.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the member tribal governments of the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona support the Medicaid Expansion plan, set forth by Arizona's Governor, and requests that all members of the Arizona State Legislature thoughtfully consider this proposal as it will greatly benefit the State of Arizona and the Tribal Nations of Arizona.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was presented and duly adopted at a meeting of the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona on **Friday, March 22, 2013**, where a quorum was present.


Terry Rambler,
President, Inter Tribal Council of Arizona
Chairman, San Carlos Apache Tribe